

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USIA-15 /032 W

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P 141558Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5121

UNCLAS ATHENS 7127

FOR CU/WE CORRIDEN FROM PAO ALEXANDER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, GR, US

SUBJ: NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ENGAGEMENT

1. NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA MANAGING DIRECTOR WILLIAM DENTON PHONED ME EARLY THIS MORNING TO CONVEY HIS DISTRESS OVER FAILURE OF THE ATHENS FESTIVAL AUTHORITIES AND THE NATIONAL TOURIST ORGANIZATION TO RESPOND SUBSTANTIVELY TO A SERIES OF QUESTIONS HE HAD SUBMITTED RELEVANT TO THE ORCHESTRA'S HOUSING DURING ITS MID-AUGUST ENGAGEMENT. DENTON EXPLAINED THAT WHILE QUESTIONS MAY SOUND TRIVIAL, HE WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE MUSICIANS' UNION FOR ANSWERS. HE AGREED REPLIES BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH YOUR GOOD OFFICES, WHICH IS HERewith REQUESTED AS FOLLOWS.

2. HOTEL ATHENS CENTER HAS RESERVED 60 DOUBLE ROOMS FOR DOUBLE OCCUPANCY AT 910 DRACHMAS PER DAY (DRACHMA IS 36 TO DOLLAR); 20 DOUBLE ROOMS FOR SINGLE OCCUPANCY AT 720 DRACHMAS PER DAY, OF WHICH ABOUT TEN BECAUSE OF REAR LOCATION WILL COST 614 DRACHMAS; 10 SINGLE ROOMS FOR SINGLE OCCUPANCY AT 561 DRACHMAS PER DAY. DOUBLE ROOMS HAVE TWO BEDS.

3. THESE PRICES INCLUDE BREAKFAST AND ONE MEAL, EITHER LUNCH OR SUPPER. HOTEL MANAGER KOUTSOURADIS PROMISES BETTER FARE THAN MOST. HOURS OF DINING ROOM ARE:
BREAKFAST 0700 TO 1000; LUNCH 12:30 TO 14:30; SUPPER 19:45 TO 2200.

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MANAGER PROMISES THESE HOURS ARE FLEXIBLE AND CAN BE

CHANGED TO ACCOMMODATE ALL OR MAJORITY ORCHESTRA MEMBERS.

4. HAVE ALSO AIRMAILED DIRECTLY TO DENTON MAP OF ATHENS WITH HOTEL,
HEROBUS ATTICUS THEATRE AND REX AND OLYMPIA REHEARSAL HALLS
CLEARLY MARKED, TOGETHER WITH MORE THAN HUNDRED BROCHURES FROM
HOTEL ATHENS CENTER.
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